

In the Claims:

Claim 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 (previously presented)

Claim 4, 8 and 14 (currently amended)

Claim 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 (New)

We Claim:

1. (Original) An ionic compound comprising a cation which is a complex of a neutral organic liqand with a metal ion and an anion which is a conjugate anion of the metal ion.
2. (Original) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is a liquid below 100°C.
3. (Original) An ionic compound according to claim 2 which is a liquid at room temperature.
4. (Currently Amended) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is electrically conductive in the absence of a solvent.
5. (Original) An ionic liquid according to claim 1 which is hydrophobic.
6. (Original) An ionic compound according to claim 1 wherein said neutral organic liqand is a crown ether.
7. (Original) An ionic liquid according to claim 1 wherein the neutral organic liqand is at least one alkyl amine.
8. (Currently Amended) An ionic compound according to claim 1 wherein said conjugate anion is bis(trifluoromethane)sulfonimide, boron trifluoride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate and dicyanamide.

9. (Original) A method for forming an ionic liquid comprising mixing a neutral organic ligand with the salt of a metal cation and its conjugate anion at room temperature.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said neutral organic ligand is a crown ether.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the metal cation is selected from the group consisting of sodium potassium, lithium and calcium.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said neutral organic ligand is an alkylamine.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said metal cation is selected from the group consisting of silver, zinc, copper, cadmium, nickel, mercury and iron.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said conjugate anion is bis(trifluoromethane)sulfonimide, boron trifluoride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate and dicyanamide.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 9 which is performed at room temperature.
16. (New) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which may be used as a solvent.
17. (New) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which may be used for gas liquid separation.
18. (New) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which may be used for solvent extraction.

19. (New) An ionic compound according to claim 4 which is used in electrical devices.
20. (New) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is used as a heat transfer fluid.